



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

April 15, 2014

District Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island District,
ATTN: Albert Frohlich, Project Manager
Clock Tower Building
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Permit Number

CEMVR-OD-P-2013-1566

Project Name

Wise Lake Dredging, Jo Daviess County

Dear Mr. Frohlich:

Reference is made to the application by Kathleen Crowley Rosenberg for a Department of the Army permit authorizing dredging of Wise Lake, a backwater of the Mississippi River in Section 16, Township 27 North, Range 1 East in Jo Daviess County, approximate Mississippi River mile 562. The project is within the Mississippi River Backwaters, a category II Illinois Natural Area Inventory Site; meaning specific suitable habitat for state-listed species or state-listed species relocations exists.

The applicant proposes to dredge an area 200 feet wide, 3 feet deep, and 1000 feet long. Approximately 22,000 cubic yards of material will be removed using hydraulic dredging methods. The material will be temporarily stockpiled on adjacent land and then removed to upland, non-wetland sites.

In the vicinity of this project there are records of the state-endangered Western Sand Darter (*Ammocrypta clarum*) and Weed Shiner (*Notropis texanus*). The Department recommends no dredging operations occur during the period of May 1 through July 15 to protect the spawning season of these fish. Because of the potential for a prohibited take, the Department recommends the applicant consider applying for Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) for these species in accordance with *17 Ill Adm. Code Part 1080*. Communication concerning the ITA application should be directed to Jenny Skufca, Office of Resource Conservation, 217-557-8243 or Jenny.Skufca@illinois.gov.

There are also records of listed mussels in the vicinity. These include the state and federally-endangered Higgins Eye (*Lampsilis higginsii*), the state-threatened Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*), and the state-threatened Butterfly (*Ellipsaria lineolata*). Before further action is taken on the requested permit we recommend the applicant retain a qualified consultant to survey and evaluate any mussel populations that may be present in the area to be impacted. This includes any areas in Wise Lake where dredging may be needed to move equipment to the project area. We will be pleased to provide a list of mussel survey consultants upon request. Results should be

forwarded to the Department. If listed mussels are discovered, the Department recommends the applicant apply for ITA for those mussel species.

Further, the Department is concerned about the placement location of dredge spoils on adjacent land and upland. The state-threatened Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) is known to occur in this vicinity. The area where spoils are going to be placed should be carefully inspected for this snake before disturbance is initiated. If one is encountered, wait for the snake to leave the area or contact the Department at 815-990-8653. Please inform the Department of the placement sites for more information on mitigating impacts to the Timber Rattlesnake.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me at 217-524-0501 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Grider".

Nathan Grider
Biologist
Impact Assessment, OREP

This recommendation regarding the issuance/denial of the US Army Corps of Engineers permit by the IDNR, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning does not preclude permit decisions made by the IDNR, Office of Water Resources under the Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act.